

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system, comprising:

~~a controlled device for managing an operation panel having a plurality of display elements corresponding to predetermined operations;~~

~~a controller for accepting control apparatus adapted to receive an operation for said operation panel supplied by said for operating a controlled device apparatus from the controlled apparatus, and to display the operation panel on a display unit; and~~

~~an operation apparatus having a first operation unit for operating said the operation panel and a second operation unit for specifying operating a specific operation function of the controlled apparatus,~~

~~wherein said controller transmits a first control signal indicating that any of said display element has been operated on the basis of an operation for said first operation unit to said controlled device and transmits a second control signal for specifying any of said specific operations on the basis of an operation for said second operation unit to said controlled device the control apparatus is adapted to receive a control signal from the operation apparatus, and determine, according to the control signal, whether or not to transmit a command for operating the specific function from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said operation panel has a hierarchical data structure and said display element has at least one of image data and text data~~ the control apparatus is adapted to determine, according to the control signal, which one of plural display elements in the operation panel is operated.

3. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said controller moves a cursor displayed on said display panel on the basis of the operation for said first operation unit~~ the control apparatus is adapted to determine according to the control signal whether or not to move a cursor on the operation panel.

4. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein the control apparatus is adapted to determine, according to the control signal, whether or not to transmit a command for operating the specific function from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus even if the operation panel is not displayed on the display unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said controlled device receives one of said first control signal and said second control signal; determines whether contents of said operation panel should be changed; and transmits data for changing the contents of said operation panel to said controller if the contents should be changed~~ the control apparatus is adapted to change the operation panel according to data transmitted from the controlled apparatus.

6. - 10. (Canceled).

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~communication apparatus~~ control apparatus that receives an operation panel for operating a controlled apparatus from the controlled apparatus, and displays the operation panel on a display unit, the control apparatus comprising:

~~a receiving means for receiving a unit adapted to receive a control signal~~
from an operation apparatus having a first operation unit for operating ~~[[an]]~~ the operation panel ~~having a plurality of display elements corresponding to predetermined operations supplied from a controlled device~~ and a second operation unit for specifying operating a specific operations function of the controlled apparatus; and

~~transmitting means for transmitting a first control signal indicating that any of said display elements has been operated on the basis of an operation for said first operation unit to said controlled device and for transmitting a second control signal for specifying any of said specific operations on the basis of an operation for said second operation unit to said controlled device~~ a control unit adapted to determine, according to the control signal, whether or not to transmit a command for operating the specific function from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein ~~said operation panel has a hierarchical data structure and said display element has at least one of image data and text data~~ the control apparatus is adapted to determine, according to the control signal, which one of plural display elements in the operation panel is operated.

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein a ~~cursor displayed on said display panel is moved on the basis of the operation for said first operation unit~~ the control apparatus is adapted to determine according to the control signal whether or not to move a cursor on the operation panel.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein ~~the operation for said second operation unit is accepted even if said display panel is not displayed~~ the control apparatus is adapted to determine, according to the control signal, whether or not to transmit a command for operating the specific function from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus even if the operation panel is not displayed on the display unit.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein ~~said data communication apparatus is a digital television set~~ the control apparatus is adapted to change the operation panel according to data transmitted from the controlled apparatus.

16. - 18. / (Canceled).

19. (New) A method performed in a control apparatus that receives an operation panel for operating a controlled apparatus from the controlled apparatus, and displays the operation panel on a display unit, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a control signal from an operation apparatus having a first operation unit for operating the operation panel, and a second operation unit for operating a specific function of the controlled apparatus; and

determining, according to the control signal, whether or not to transmit a command for operating the specific function from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus.

20. (New) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of determining, according to the control signal, which one of plural display elements in the operation panel is operated.

21. (New) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of determining, according to the control signal, whether or not to move a cursor on the operation panel.

22. (New) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of determining, according to the control signal, whether or not to transmit a command for operating the specific function from the control apparatus to the controlled apparatus even if the operation panel is not displayed on the display unit.

23. (New) A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of changing the operation panel according to data transmitted from the controlled apparatus.